

**ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
LIVED EXPERIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

Wednesday, August 6, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location:

**County Administration South (CAS) County
Conference Center Room 104
425 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92701
[Click here](#) for parking instructions.**

Virtual Meeting Option:

Zoom Meeting Link: [Click here for meeting link](#)

Join by phone: +1 669 444 9171

Webinar ID: 923 4439 7221

****Listen-in option only****

Committee Chair: Robert “Santa Bob” Morse

Committee Vice Chair: Paul Kaiser, Individual

Committee Members:

Reha Agar, Individual

Elizabeth Flores, Individual

Nichole Gideon, Individual

Deborah Kraft, Individual

Miranda Mears, Individual

Jason Mercado, Individual

Larry “Smitty” Smith, Individual

Melissa Welsh, Individual

Vinny Zarrella, Individual

MINUTES

Welcome and Meeting Overview – Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Chair

Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Present: Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Jason Mercado, Larry “Smitty” Smith, Nichole Gideon, Melissa Welsh, Elizabeth Flores, Deborah Kraft, Reha Agar, Vinny Zarrella, and Miranda Mears.

Absent: Paul Kaiser

Reha Agar, Vinny Zarrella, and Miranda Mears arrived during Business Item 1.

Request for Virtual Participation

The Brown Act allows exceptions for members of legislative bodies to participate remotely under two specified circumstances: (1) “Just Cause” or (2) “Emergency Circumstances”. At least a quorum of the committee must be participating in-person for the exception(s) to be voted on and enacted. Following the Call to Order, Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse referenced a request for committee member Deborah Kraft to join virtually due to “Just Cause”.

Recommended Action: Allow Deborah Kraft to participate remotely for today’s LEAC meeting.

Jason Mercado motioned to approve the Recommended Action to allow Deborah Kraft to participate remotely. Nichole Gideon seconded the motion. Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse issued a voice vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments – Members of the public may address the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) on items listed within this agenda or matters not appearing on the agenda so long as the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the LEAC. Public comments will be limited to three minutes. If there are more than five public speakers, this time will be reduced to two minutes. Members of the public utilizing interpreter services will be given double the amount of time to provide public comment.

To address the LEAC during the Public Comment period, members of the public are to complete a Request to Address the Committee form prior to the beginning of each agenda item and submit it to Continuum of Care (CoC) staff. Staff will call your name in the order received. Members of the public may also submit public comment by emailing CareCoordination@ceo.oc.gov. All comments submitted via email at least 24 hours before the start of the meeting will be distributed to the LEAC members, and all comments will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include “LEAC Meeting Comment” in the email subject line.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve the LEAC Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2025.

Elizabeth Flores motioned to approve Consent Calendar Item 1. Nichole Gideon seconded the motion. Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse issued a voice vote. Motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. **Lived Experience Compensation Framework Recommendation** – Felicia Boehringer, Interim CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Felicia Boehringer provided an overview of the updated compensation program, including the amended compensation structure, the scope of work for the Orange County United Way (OCUW) compensation process, coordination of participant involvement, financial compensation, and program administration. Felicia Boehringer also shared the changes which have been made due to feedback from the prior LEAC

meeting, including a simplified compensation framework, adjusting compensation to include accommodation for additional travel time, and new recommended rates of compensation based on roles.

Recommended Actions:

- a. Approve the following recommended compensation framework for People with Lived Experience partnering with the Orange County CoC for review and approval by the CoC Board.
 - (1) \$45 per hour for the Storyteller Role, as determined based on the Lived Experience Compensation Rate Determination Table.
 - (2) \$50 per hour for the Advisor Role, as determined based on the Lived Experience Compensation Rate Determination Table.
 - (3) \$55 per hour for the Leadership Role, as determined based on the Lived Experience Compensation Rate Determination Table.
- b. Approve People with Lived Experience partnering with the Orange County CoC who travel more than 30 miles to a meeting location to be eligible for an additional one (1) hour of compensation.

Jason Mercado motioned to approve Recommended Actions a and b. Elizabeth Flores seconded the motion. Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse issued a roll call vote. Deborah Kraft, Elizabeth Flores, Larry “Smitty” Smith, Miranda Mears, Nichole Gideon, Reha Agar, Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Vinny Zarrella, Jason Mercado, and Melissa Welsh voted yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Discussion:

- Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse asked about how compensation will be determined for those who do not wish to publicly disclose their lived experience and expressed concerns about potential tax implications for travel reimbursement being compensated the same way as hourly compensation due to the potential impact on benefits. Robert “Santa Bob” Morse asked for clarification on the total number of people between all the committees that would be receiving compensation.
- Reha Agar emphasized that the ask regarding compensation for those with lived experience originated with the LEAC, expressed concerns that the compensation was initially intended to cover travel and felt the current structure may not be adequate. Reha Agar recommended having two roles rather than three, with one role being for when members participate in LEAC activities and the other role being when LEAC members participate in additional committees. Reha Agar questioned whether members could speak to United Way about potential tax implications prior to approving the framework.
- Vinny Zarrella asked for clarification about what forms of compensation, such as gift cards, will be available for compensation.
- Deborah Kraft requested more clarification on whether the 30 miles in Recommended Action B included round trip mileage or one way only. Deborah Kraft asked whether the approval for this contract was from the Board of Supervisors, how long the contract is for, and the possibility of contract extensions.
- Elizabeth Flores expressed initially agreeing to participate knowing that there was no compensation and feeling grateful that compensation is being discussed. Elizabeth Flores asked if the budget is sufficient to maintain the proposed rates for the year, and whether additional members with lived experience could be added to committees without negatively impact the budget.
- Miranda Mears expressed concerns surrounding losing benefits because of increased income.

- Jason Mercado asked for clarification about rates for those on other committees who do not disclose having lived experience. Jason Mercado asked how many LEAC seats are open and how this was taken into consideration when planning the budget. Jason Mercado wondered if United Way would be responsible for tracking how much each member needs to be compensated.
- Larry “Smitty” Smith asked if United Way would be the party making the decisions regarding the budget and additional potential members.
- Nichole Gideon asked about when the contract will become effective if the motion passes today, as well as who will be responsible for tracking time.

2. CoC Updates – Felicia Boehringer, Interim CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination

Felicia Boehringer provided updates on Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Round 6 application, further discussions related to the CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 CoC Program Competition, the 2026 Point in Time Count, and the fiscal year 2024 Longitudinal Systems Analysis Report. Felicia also highlighted CES Policies and Procedures updates that will be brought to a future LEAC meeting, including the CES 2-for-1 Match Policy, and other upcoming committee meetings. Daniel Garcia provided additional clarification on details of the proposed 2-for-1 Match Policy.

Committee Discussion:

- Vinny Zarrella inquired about the 2-for-1 Match Request Policy and if there is language included for the secondary match to cancel.
- Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse inquired about the timeframe written in the 2-for-1 Match Request Policy.
- Melissa Welsh inquired about the timeframe regarding the 2-for-1 Match Request Policy, specifically about the status of the secondary match if the first match does not turn in documents on time.

3. LEAC Member Comments – Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Chair

- Nichole Gideon shared information about an update from HMIS pertaining to the HMIS User Recertification and updates regarding the collection of gender data. Nichole expressed the intention to highlight these changes and raise awareness about how it will affect clients, and the funding of programs based around this data.
- Vinny Zarrella inquired about updates on the Youth Advisory Board and if there is a difference between the CoC Youth Advisory Board and Orangewood Foundation Youth Advisory Board.
- Chair Robert “Santa Bob” Morse expressed gratitude towards fellow LEAC members for their involvement in the committee and other related committees.
- Nichole Gideon expressed appreciation for the LEAC members.
- Reha Agar inquired about the outcome of the recent Same Day Solutions Fair in Lake Forest.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the CAN Multipurpose Room 400 W. Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92701